

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0362
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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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USDOC FOR MAJOR EXPORT PRODUCTS DIVISION

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EIND, BBAK, BENC, GB, SG
SUBJECT: DIAL-A-SERVICE PROPOSED INVESTMENTS IN GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 2921(NOTAL)

1. DECEMBER 15, MR LOUIS BROWN, PRESIDENT OF DIAL-A-SERVICE, INC OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, VISITED EMBASSY TO REQUEST TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR TWO PROPOSALS THAT HE HAD NEGOTIATED WITH HIGHLY PLACED MEMBERS OF GOG, INCLUDING FONMIN MARTIN BONGO.

2. THE FIRST PROPOSAL CONCERNED THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AMMONIA FACTORY. WHEN EMBOFF INFORMED BROWN THAT THERE ALREADY WAS NA AMERICAN FIRM (N-REN) INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION OF AN AMMONIA PLANT, BROWN WAS SURPRISED. BROWN CLAIMED THAT GABONESE HAD NOT INFORMED HIM OF EXISTENCE OF GABOREN FACTORY, ON WHICH CONSTRUCTION WAS HALTED LAST JULY (REFTEL).

3. THE SECOND PROPOSAL CONCERNED CONSTRUCTION OF THE SANTA CLARA MINERALS PORT. THIS PROPOSAL ALSO
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STRUCK EMBOFF AS BEING A BIT ODD SINCE IT MENTIONED WORKIGN WITH AN ENGINEERING STUDY DONE BY A FRENCH FIRM, SOCOMINE(PROBABLY THE ECONOMIC STUDY), INSTEAD OF THE STUDY DONE BY THE US FIRM SOROS ASSOCIATES. BROWN EXPRESSED IGNORANCE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE SOROS STUDY.

4. DECEMBER 16, BROWN RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY TO OBTAIN A TRANSLATION OF AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY PRESIDENT BONGO AUTHORIZING PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR PAUL OKUMBA D'OKWATSEGUE TO NEGOTIATE WITH DIAL-A-SERVICE FOR LAOS TOTALING \$1 BILLION.

5. COMMENT: BROWN'S PARTNER IN THESE VENTURES IS LOUIS SENGHOR, ALLEGED NEPHEW OF PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SEDOR SENGHOR. THIS MAY EXPLAIN WHY DIAL A SERVICE HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING DIRECTLY WITH THE BONGO FAMILY. BROWN PROMISED EMBOFF A REPORT ON HIS ACTIVITIES IN GABON BUT NOTHING HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED.

6. EMBASSY WILL POUCH COPIES OF TRANSLATIONS TO AF/C.

7. FOR SECSTATE: WOULD APPRECIATE SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON DIAL A SERVICE. COMPANY ADDRESS GIVEN BY BROWN IN 1830 WEST 8TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90057. TELEPHONE 213-385-6315. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFO ON THE SILENT PARTNER, INTERNATIONAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT INC OF ANAHEIM HILLS, CALIF.

8. FOR DAKAR: BROWN CLAIMS DIAL A SERVICE INVOLVED IN PROJECTS IN SENEGAL. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN SENEGALESE PROJECTS. YATES

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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